GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:224
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2002
INDIANS MISSING IN SAUDI ARABIA
KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Indians who had gone to Saudi Arabia for taking jobs have gone missing and their whereabouts are not known;

(b) if so, the number of such Indians who went missing during the last three years; and

(c) the efforts being made by our diplomatic mission in that country to trace them out?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) & (b) The number of persons `missing` over the last three years, as reported to the Embassy/Consulate in Saudi Arabia, is as follows:

Year	Cases Reported
2000-2001	101
2001-2002	105
2002-2003(Upto Nov 2002)	73

(c) Our Embassy and Consulate in Saudi Arabia took up these cases with their employers and with the Saudi authorities to locate the missing Indians. In some instances, recruiting agents in India were also approached. As a result of these efforts, many of the missing persons were located and made to establish contact with their family members in India. In most cases, it is a deliberate decision on the part of the individuals not to communicate with their families for personal reasons. In several cases, the persons concerned resume contact with their relatives, but do not intimate the Embassy/Consulate.